

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Spare Change

*Prominent people
lend a hand selling
Spare Change*

SEE • PAGE • 4

Helping People Help Themselves

Charlee
Redman
worked
hard. ▶



PHOTO • CAL KENNEDY

▼ Tooker Gomborg, from City Council,
pitched before the TV cameras.



PHOTOS • JAKALIN MACGREGOR

PHOTO • CAL KENNEDY

▼ Mayoralty candidate
Bill Smith won the
top seller award
for his efforts.



▶ MLA Alice
Hanson
was a
friendly
vendor.



PHOTO • CAL KENNEDY

▼ Cam Tait makes a sale,
for 13 cents!



▲ City councillor Sherry McKibben makes a sale.

▼ SOLD BY DONATION

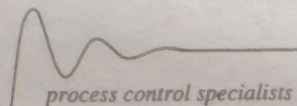
▶ YOUR VENDOR PAYS UP TO 50¢ PER COPY OF SPARE CHANGE • PLEASE BUY FROM BADGED VENDORS



Arico Instruments Ltd.

"Working for a better tomorrow"

9241 - 35 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5Y1



CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

North Alberta District

8440 - 109 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T6G 1E2

REV. ROBERT E. VOELKER
District Secretary

TEL: (403) 439-7729
439-PRAY
FAX: (403) 439-1676



BUSINESS ONLINE INC.

John K. MacDonald
MARKETING

Multinode MS-DOS BBS, 8-N-1 Voice: (403) 448-7272
(403) 990-0251 Fax: (403) 424-7070
Internet: john.macdonald@boinc.supernet.ab.ca

407 Liberty Building, 10506 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T5J 2W9



CAPITAL

ESTATE PLANNING

Group Benefit and
Retirement Consultants

May Olson
Group Administration

Greystone Pavillion, 4222 - 97th Street, Edmonton, AB T6E 5Z9

Phone: (403) 463-6128 1-800-661-8755 Fax: (403) 462-7523



6108 - 28 Avenue
Edmonton • Alberta

JAY CEE ERECTORS LTD.

12705 - 52 St., Edmonton, AB 478-4410

"Working to put people to work"



KELLY MANAGEMENT
& REALTY

204 • 14218 STONY
PLAIN ROAD
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5N • 3R3
(403) 453 • 2555
FAX: (403) 455 • 6778

Rental Properties
throughout the City in
your Price Range

Warning to wandering men

Stop it immediately or face dire consequences, as did cheating Lothario Tony Knevett, of Bath, England, who received a stamped-addressed dead rat from angry girlfriend Anna O'Neill. "I wanted to show him exactly how I felt," she later explained. Australian Petaly Eggspot, meanwhile, left husband Lucas in no doubt about how she felt on discovering a strange, lipstick-smeared toothbrush in the back of his car. Convinced the brush was evidence of an illicit liaison, Mrs Eggspot, of Sydney, set light to her

husband's slippers (whilst he was in them) and destroyed his car with a pick axe. She then knocked him out with a watermelon and imprisoned him in an upstairs cupboard, refusing to let him out until he confessed to "each and every poke". Only when it transpired that the toothbrush actually belonged to her mother-in-law did Mrs Eggspot relent, releasing her husband and baking him a cake by way of apology. "Actually I was rather flattered," he later confessed, "It shows she loves me." ♦

And the fate of the scorned man

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, except possibly a man scorned. Such was certainly the case with lovelorn Greek, Romeo Costas Tsenekides, 24, who recently hijacked a Boeing 737 and threatened to blow it up because his girlfriend had dumped him. Fortunately his bomb turned out to be a large box of Turkish delight, and all passengers were released unharmed. In France, meanwhile, 34-year-old Jean Aliers had a more serious mid-air breakdown when his girlfriend rejected a marriage

proposal 20,000 feet up in the air. Mr Aliers and his lover, both keen skydivers, were in the middle of a jump when he presented her with a ring and asked her to marry him. To his horror, however, she screamed in his ear: "I'm screwing your father." Without further ado he screamed back: "I'm strawberry jam, you bitch, and it's your fault," before unharnessing his parachute and tumbling earthwards to his death. His girlfriend was devastated, not least because, as she later explained, "it was just a little joke." ♦

Disorganized crime gets trunked

It was probably the worst day in the history of disorganized crime for Natron Fubble, 35, of Miami. It started when the owner of a delicatessen he was robbing broke his nose with a giant salami, and climaxed when, after another failed robbery, he took refuge in the trunk of an empty car. Unbeknownst to Fubble, however, this was a police surveillance vehicle whose

owners, returning from a cup of coffee, drove for five days across America, tailing a suspicious truck. His whimpers were eventually heard just south of Seattle, where he was removed at gunpoint and arrested. He was sentenced to two years in prison, despite claiming that he was on an undercover mission for the FBI. ♦

World-wide spaghetti alert

Ferocious pasta has been involved in violent attacks on humankind of late. In Cardiff, Wales, a mugger was repelled from the doorway of 56-year-old Trish Jones by a plate of spaghetti launched by her son from an upstairs window. "It was a creamy mushroom bolognese with garlic," he later explained. In Mexico City a chef was stabbed to death by strands of uncooked spaghetti when his restaurant was hit by a freak hurricane. Juan Ruiz, 51, was working in the kitchen of The Humming Mango when the hurricane

struck. While everyone else cowered beneath tables, Mr Ruiz continued chopping vegetables, seemingly untroubled by the 150 mph winds. "Spaghetti was flying around like spears," explained one waiter. "We shouted: 'Watch out for the pasta!' but he just screamed, 'Am I a woman?' and then collapsed." Coroners concluded Mr Ruiz had been killed by five separate pieces of spaghetti which had punctured his heart, lung and eye. "We've taken bolognese off the menu as a mark of respect," said his distraught widow. ♦

Leave the driving in good hands

Australia has its share of bizarre car accidents. Abner Kriller drove off a cliff after blowing a giant bubble-gum bubble that burst over his glasses and momentarily blinded him. Housewife Helen Spleen crashed into a telephone pole after a cane toad hurtled through her windshield and, she said, "grabbed my breasts." Even more strange was the accident on the German autobahn where Alessandro Bartok caused a huge pileup by releasing the steering wheel and "leaving Jesus to drive." Apparently

Mr Bartok had talked non-stop for three hours about the glory of Jesus. Eventually his son said "Bollocks", at which Mr Bartok screamed, "I'll show you his power," and removed his hands from the steering wheel, pleading with Jesus to "drive your servants home". Clearly the Holy Spirit wasn't use to power steering, for after swerving across the freeway, the car smashed into the back of a truck, causing an 18 car pile-up. "It was a miracle no one was killed," declared a triumphant Bartok. ♦

Above articles compiled by Paul Sussman in *The Big Issue*, London England's street-sold magazine.

Chris Cutrara

BY C WATSON

He's an outdoorsman who has been selling **Spare Change** in Calgary for a couple of months. He's out in any weather, Monday to Friday, at 7th avenue and 6th Street SW. and at Eau Clair Market's West entrance on weekends. Look for him, tanned and well-groomed, wearing the blue cord baseball cap, denim jacket and tan cowboy boots which are Chris's uniform.

"I'm a hillbilly through and through," he says, "I'm not a city boy! My home is in the bush with a horse."

But, "You gotta do what you gotta do in order to live," he says. "I wasn't looking for a handout, I was looking for a hand up. **Spare Change** is a good thing. You're selling a product and it's payday everyday. People notice, they say, Hey, this guy is doing something for himself and that's good."

He needs to make \$6 a day to rent a bed and a small locker beside it at the Salvation Army Booth Centre downtown. If he wants supper there, it costs \$3. He insists that one meal a day is all he needs because he isn't doing heavy work to need more. Laundry is \$3. He often just hand washes and hangs clothes to dry overnight while wearing his other pair of jeans and a sweatshirt. A couple of denim cowboy shirts would come in handy.

Chris moved west from Toronto in 1970. He cowboied, wrangled horses, and worked on a few ranches in BC. Then he drove trucks. But there wasn't enough work with only his Class 3 with airbrakes license. So he took an employment program in Dawson Creek and ran a chainsaw for a while. He got a private pilot's license in Red Deer.

Chris is a self-taught outdoorsman, snaring rabbits, fishing and hunting with a rifle. As a boy in Toronto he took weapons training with the Air Cadets and even shot in target tournaments. "But my Dad is scared of weapons," he says. "He was a bellman with the Royal York Hotel for years." Chris's parents, sister and two brothers all still live in and around Toronto.

In 1981 it took 133 stitches to repair damage to Chris's head, face and neck after an accident. He went through the windshield of his car coming home from work near Rocky Mountain House. He now wears photo-grey-extra glasses against harsh lighting or sun to ward off migraines. He shrugs about the accident but pulls a face about being among those laid off three weeks after returning to his job.

He's now 43, and Chris arrived in Calgary in January, hoping for a driving or warehousing job. Nothing yet, so he's selling papers. He'd like to get back out on a ranch near the mountains. "My dream is a log cabin by the creek, a horse in the corral, a moose hanging out in the cooler and an old beat-up four-by-four in perfect running condition. My life is very, very simple," he says.

In the meantime, "I'd like to thank people for helping me out and letting me stay in a nice warm place thought their generosity in buying **Spare Change**."

Chris is a self-taught outdoorsman, snaring rabbits, fishing and hunting with a rifle. As a boy in Toronto he took weapons training with the Air Cadets and even shot in target tournaments. "But my Dad is scared of weapons," he says. "He was a bellman with the Royal York Hotel for years." Chris's parents, sister and two brothers all still live in and around Toronto.



**Spare
Change
Authorized
Vendor**



Vendor Name _____
Number _____
Authorized by _____

SPARE CHANGE VENDOR'S CODE

- I will be sober at all times while working
- I will be polite to all members of the public
- I will vend only in areas that are authorized

All **Spare Change** vendors are required to wear an ID badge (contents above) and abide by a code of conduct. If you have any comments about our vendors, phone our distribution manager in your city (see page 5).

LETTERS

Opening eyes: A smile & a hello

I would like to thank the man who sold me my first copy of **Spare Change**. I am a young woman and I grew up in the country, so approaching this man was very difficult for me - fear mainly because I didn't know this person. I gave him a two dollar bill and he politely thanked me and placed my copy of **Spare Change** gently into my shopping cart.

I had heard about the newspaper and I wanted to get a copy and see for myself how it all worked. After reading through the paper, I was very impressed. I had no idea! It really opened my eyes!

These people are really doing a great job - they have to purchase the paper to sell it - this shows me great responsibility and that they should feel good about what they are doing.

I understand now that these individuals must at times find it just as hard to stand there with dignity and sell the paper and take rude comments and stares, as I found it hard to muster up the courage just to approach the man standing outside the IGA.

So, to that man, thank you, for next time I see someone selling **Spare Change** I will have the courage to approach and to say hello. Keep your chin up, you are doing the best you can at the moment. I was

always told this, "If you know you have done your best, then phooey on all the rest."

A little smile and a small hello always makes a person more approachable for scared little country bumpkins like myself. You have something to smile about, you are doing a good job! ♦

TRESA EDMONTON

Saskatoon needs to know more about Spare Change

Of the three issues I have read I liked the March contents best. We have very few salespeople of **Spare Change** in downtown Saskatoon. So far I have only seen three: one woman, one young man and another this month. They act as if they have been cautioned not to speak at all.

Saskatoon citizens need an article in the **Star Phoenix** to explain and inform about this newspaper. ♦

EILEEN ZAMULINSKI SASKATOON

Hitting the streets for 1st Anniversary Sale-A-Thon

BY KEITH WILEY



Cam Tait makes a sale, for 13 cents

"It's a hard job," Cam Tait said after selling **Spare Change** newspaper for half an hour on a corner of Jasper Ave. The Edmonton **Journal** columnist was helping out with **Spare Change** sales at a special Sale-A-Thon celebrating the first anniversary of the newspaper.

Along with over a dozen other well-known Edmontonians, Tait came out to support the street paper and try out the role of a corner vendor. "A real eye-opener," Tait said, and many of the others agreed.

Rushing up and down and asking all the passers-by really showed FM 105's morning host Charlee Redman what street selling is like. Redman worked hard, but she came up short in the Sale-A-Thon competition of who could get the most for their papers over the noon hour. Edmonton mayoralty candidate, Bill Smith took an enthusiastic approach with a suit, tie and a big smile. He won the top seller contest. "It was great. Some of the people asked me if this is what I do for a living? I said yes, anything wrong with that?" When one man suggested Smith get a job, he quipped back that he was trying for one.

"Getting some new people out to see what **Spare Change** is all about was quite a boost," said **Spare Change** project manager, Gord Poschwatta. "These were really gutsy people to come out and lend us a hand and find out what it is like for our sellers." Poschwatta said the Sale-A-Thon helped show that, after a year, **Spare Change** has earned a place in the community, and there's a lot of people ready to come out and support it.

Edmonton city councillor Brian Mason presented **Spare Change** with a letter and plaque from Mayor Jan Reimer, in a short ceremony

before the Sale-A-Thon. "**Spare Change** serves both buyers and sellers, offering jobs with dignity as well as news about our neighbours," said Mayor Reimer's proclamation of April 20 as **Spare Change** Day in Edmonton. He then went out to sell on the street, as did other city councillors, Tooker Gomberg and

Sherry McKibben.

Cam Tait got a good corner, and someone joshed him, "Make any money out there?"

"NO!" he called back. Tait sold from his wheelchair, which might have given him a sympathy advantage, but he didn't seem to think it had worked out that way. "I'm glad I write for a paper, I'm glad I don't sell it," he said.

Edmonton MLA Alice Hanson tried out one street corner only to be met by a regular vendor who pointed out it was his spot. That was a real part of vendor experience, too. Hanson moved down the block.

Allan Wells came to sell "without a nickel on me, my kids took the last of my money to school." Wells is on the board of Tegler Trust, one of the original sponsors of the paper. He thought it felt a bit like what a vendor experiences. "Humility," was how he described it.

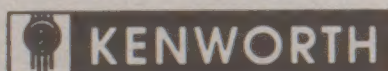
Some of the other brave vendors were: Dave France, Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation; Thomas Owen, Chair, Board of Directors, Bissell Centre; Peter Hill, of Channel Ten; Mark Lisac and Florence Loyie of **The Edmonton Journal**; and Pam Barrett, of CFRN Online.

The Sale-A-Thon celebration also included live music, a birthday cake and a hot dogs barbecue. The whole event raised about \$331.50 for the newspaper, and manager Poschwatta called it quite a success. ♦

Keith Wiley is the editor of **Spare Change**.

Working to put People to Work

Edmonton Kenworth Ltd.



NORTHSIDE
14236 - 121A Avenue
453-3431

SOUTHSIDE
2110 - 91 Avenue
464-1212

Great Food

The Comfortable Pub



Old Strathcona's "Newest" Pub
10511a 82nd Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6E 2A3



Bus: (403) 462-8937
498-0791
Fax: (403) 466-4614

53434 Range Road 213
Ardrossan, Alberta T0E 2E0

"Working for a Better Tomorrow"

COMMUNITY • Notices

CALGARY

Calgary Urban Project Society

- Volunteers needed to work with Calgary's street population. Opportunities available for front line service delivery and nurses. Call 221-8789.
- Donations of work boots, running shoes, jeans, sweat pants and men's socks and underwear are needed. Call 221-8790

Spare Change Calgary

- Looking for writers who are willing to help in the develop-

ment of material for the newspaper. Call Ed Greanya at 221-8790.

EDMONTON

The Bissell Centre

- Bissell Child Care needs large diapers, small spoons and forks, construction paper, natural fruit juices. If you can help, please call 429-4126.

Narcotics Anonymous

- Drugs! Have your tried to stop, but can't? Narcotics

Anonymous is a group of recovering addicts who can help. Call 421-4429 (24 hours) for more information.

- **Spare Change** includes this free notice section for good causes. SEND YOUR NOTICES, 30 words or less, to our Calgary or Edmonton offices by the 10th of the month. Space is limited, some notices may not be published. ♦

On welfare? — Get a job

Lazy bums who just want to mooch off the rest of us and live on welfare should be forced to go out and get a job.

That's what some people think, and it's exactly that type of thinking that the Alberta government is appealing to with its work-for-welfare projects. Now the Jobs Corps plan is coming to Edmonton, to put 500 people into minimum wage jobs, rather than on welfare. It's a part of the publicity campaign to show how tough the government is by cutting down the welfare rolls.

The Alberta government reports it has cut welfare rolls by 44 per cent since beginning its program of "welfare reform" in 1993. Some of these people simply left the province after the cuts in welfare in November of 1993 made it impossible for them to survive here. There were all the famous bus ticket to B.C. stories. They weren't all just stories.

Some of the drop in welfare numbers is statistical sleight-of-hand, too. 12,000 people moved from welfare to the Students Finance Board, to go back to school. Others went on the work programs. From March of 1993 to December of last year, some 44,000 people were taken off the welfare rolls.

All this certainly hasn't cut costs by 44 per cent, but it has shifted costs out of welfare. Like the work-for-welfare plans do. But it costs more to get someone working than on welfare.

Most of the work plans pay minimum wage, \$5 an hour, one of the lowest minimum wages in Canada. \$5 an hour is only \$200 in a full week or \$800 to \$1,000 a month. It's slim wages. "I can't understand why they would set minimum wage below the poverty line," says one worker. "It's a social disaster."

It's true that \$1,000 a month is a lot more than the \$394 a single employable person gets from welfare. No one can live on that either, at least not with a roof over their heads and anything like square meals. That \$394 figure is the result of the big 1994 cut, down from \$470 in 1992, and down from what it was way back 13 years ago, \$551 a month in 1982.

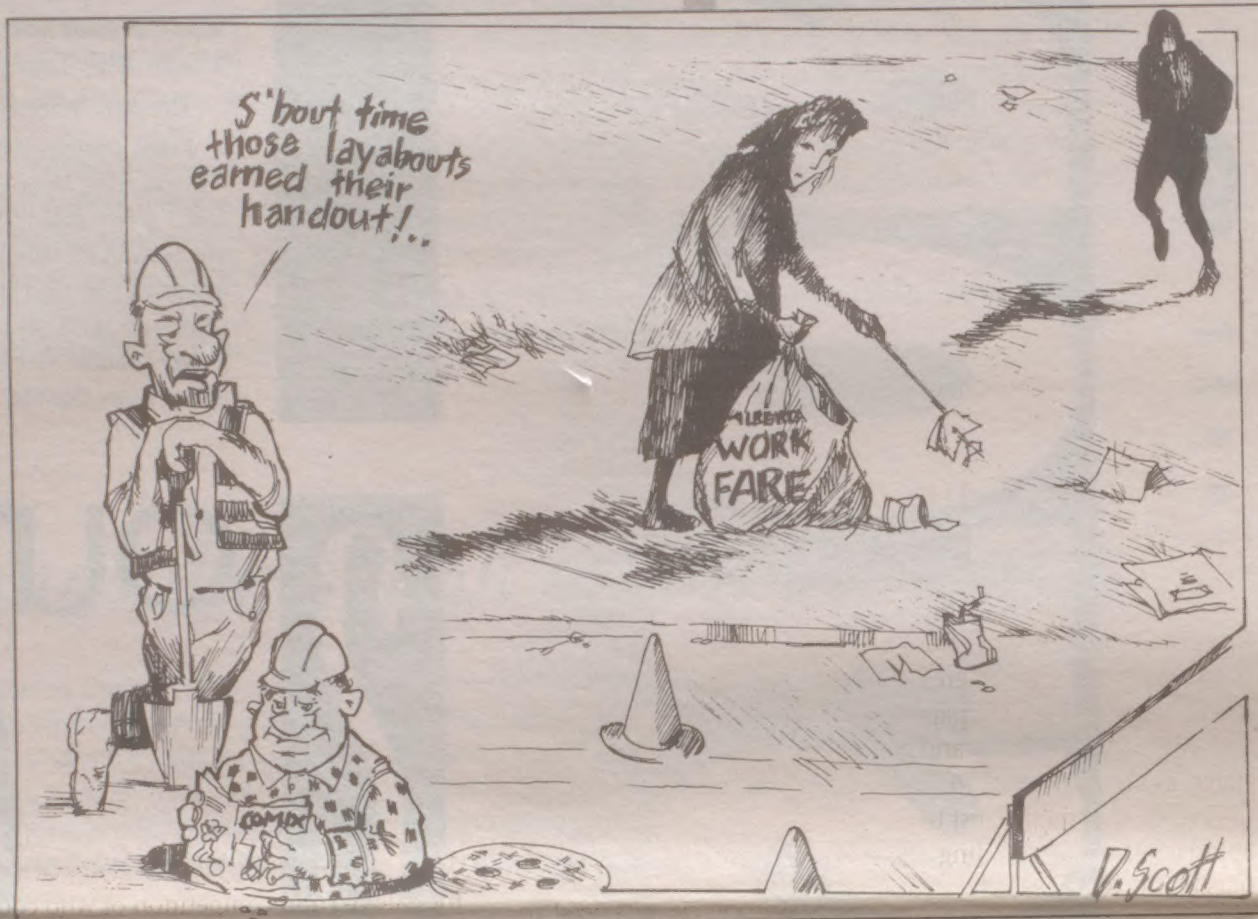
\$1,000 a month is about the same as a single mom with two children gets from social assistance. But if she opts for the work plan, they could pay her childcare too.

The government plan is to move welfare recipients permanently back into the workforce. "Once people get a lifestyle change and start working and develop some skills through the job corps, then they go on to other types of employment," says provincial social services spokesperson, Bob Scott.

But most people on social assistance would be back in the workforce if they could be, if they could get decent jobs. For many different reasons most people who are forced to welfare are less employable. It could be they've never been able to afford to fix those missing front teeth, or they've got no phone, or can't afford the laundromat. They are at a disadvantage in a tough job market where even \$8 an hour jobs will have people lining up. The work program isn't going to make that much difference. When the permanent job isn't there, they'll be forced back to welfare.

The work programs are there to make the government

look tough on "welfare bums". It's political, not practical. It's a play to the public opinion that blames people for their bad circumstances, the "lazy bums" line. The plans are cynical not compassionate. Compassion for people who really are desperate is quite lacking in welfare policy.



The government's Welfare Reform Report tells the story: "In the 21 months since reforms were put in place, the goals of spending and caseload reductions have been met and surpassed." Making welfare much harder to get has been part of the program. The Report notes that welfare offices "were asked to develop their own ideas to achieve caseload decreases . . ." Heavy red tape was the result: "establishing waiting periods for non-emergency clients", "requiring clients to come to information sessions before processing their applications for assistance."

It comes down to cutting off families if they miss one meeting, or make one mistake in a report form. Then there's no money for rent, no groceries. It's down to the food bank while you grovel to get reinstated.

Across the province misery has increased dramatically, as have visits to the food banks. In just the first year of welfare "reform" food bank use in Edmonton rose by 30 per cent.

The job plans, the work for welfare plans, are more of this misguided reform. Playing to the get-tough crowd in Alberta politics, the government is playing with the lives of people who are the most vulnerable and desperate. ♦

KEITH WILEY

Thank you advertisers

SPARE CHANGE would like to thank these individuals & organizations for their support. These supporters and the organizations that advertise keep this paper coming to you. ♦

CONTRACT INTERIOR SYSTEMS

15903 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, AB.
Phone 447-5343

IDA STONY PLAIN PHARMACY

Stony Plain, AB.
Phone 963-6111

LOU HOWELL • BOBCAT SERVICES

Edmonton, AB.
Phone 474-0010

THANKS TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH:

Candy Watson, Calgary writer • Terry Summers, Calgary Urban Project Society • Linda Dumont, Edmonton writer • Michael Vlessides, former New Yorker, now teaching in the north • Marjorie Bencz, executive director, Edmonton Food Bank • Deanna Douglas, Edmonton, our woman at the movies • Elyse Freemanson, Edmonton, with her eyes on the stars • Diane Scott, Edmonton, for extraordinary cartoons • Susan Andrews, with our regular crossword • Blaine Kylo, Calgary, for background on Homeless Week • and friends. Franc Grove, Edmonton, for all the work on our Sale-A-Thon Celebration • Heather Stump, Edmonton, for lots of help. ♦

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Publishers: The Bissell Centre, Calgary Urban Project Society, Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation
General Manager: Gord Poschwatta
Editor: Keith Wiley
Proofreader: Megan Collins
Design & Layout: Jang & Willson Design

EDMONTON:

The Bissell Centre
10527-96 Street • Edmonton • AB • T5H 2H6
Phone: 423-2285 • Ext. 47 • Fax: 429-7908

Spare Change is published to provide a voice and employment for people who have no spare change. **Spare Change** gratefully acknowledges the inspiration and support of Michael McCarthy and Vancouver **Spare Change**. However this publication is not officially associated with any other publication.

CALGARY:

Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS)
128 - 7th Avenue SE • Calgary • AB • T2G 0H5
Phone: 221-8790 • Fax: 221-8791

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of **Spare Change**, the editors or publishers.

Spare Change welcomes your contribution. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, unless otherwise indicated. **Spare Change** welcomes

SASKATOON:

127 Avenue D North
Saskatoon • SK • S7L 1M5
Phone: 664-8848 • Fax: 664-8842

E-MAIL

ADDRESS:
sparechg@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

written submissions, particularly those on IBM or Mac compatible computer disk, cartoons, photographs or artwork. **Spare Change** cannot accept responsibility for any submission. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced in any form without written permission from **Spare Change**. ♦

MAY 1995 • VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 2

SPARE

CHANGE

MAY

1995

STORIES

1

A PARTICULAR
OF BLOOD / *A bre*

BY MICHAEL VLESSIDES

To the typical New Yorker, it was, sadly, just that...typical. A typical pedestrian walking along a typical street with its typical homeless resident. Even the most acute observer would have been hard-pressed to notice anything remotely unique about this particular incident, even when this particular pedestrian (who always thought of himself as generally compassionate in nature) stepped neatly over this particular homeless person who was stretched out across this sidewalk, his head sitting in a particularly large pool of blood.

The only difference of course was that the pedestrian was me.

I first noticed him lying there from about 20 feet away. Not wanting to alter my route too much (New York, man, we don't have time to waste walking around people). I followed the lead of my Big Brother brethren who filled the sidewalk ahead of me, and stepped, as I said, neatly across him. The only mistake I made (unlike the others, who kept their eyes glued straight ahead) was looking down at him. That was when I saw the blood.

Somebody screamed inside my head: "Just stepped over a person lying in a pool of blood!!" There is a Hollywood-like - about those moments that you later look back on and think, "defining moment in your life" - street seemed to have the t

I grabbed his wrist and f... good. With no pay phones in the doorway to call for an ambulance and into an even danker room. New York City homeless shelter, one, and I was shocked at the... I managed to persuade the ambulance, but when I asked (and rainy March day) he m

In retrospect, I should have... went back downstairs, satisfied... was on its way. I crouched... ambulance would be fortunate

2

OUT OF THE CO



W.B. Yeats, the Irish poet, once wrote: "The centre breaks everything to say will remain silent a listening shall be loud, far from his brilliant poem, the early part of this century millennium dawns.

Hank from Moose Jaw, heart and knows him well standing on a downtown Shakespeare or Robert Frost blue jeans, khaki shirt and on his brow while he holds for a degree in English Lit

"I scare myself sometimes gappy from the few times. Some people are very uncomfortable brought too close.

"I should either keep a mask," Hank once said as he was going to recite some House of Chan.

"Some people are more... artiste starves. Hans Christian writing his children's stories

3

THE SOOTHSAY
double-barrelled long-winded

BY LINDA DUMONT

It was after midnight when the door bell rang. I opened the door and blinked sleepily at the two men standing there.

"Can we come in and drink our beer?" one asked, "it's cold outside." He was carrying a brown liquor store bag.

"No."

I recognized them as panhandlers. We had met before when I was out selling papers. One day they had watched me until I made a sale, then came over demanding money, saying, "I know you have it, I saw that man give you two dollars." When

they became too persistent just came around to tease saying, "I'll give you what you refused, and then he would

"Can we just come in... weren't about to give up

"OK, but be quiet, even into the kitchen. They looked were so successful as panhandlers days in those clothes, and

I made up some sand

RLY LARGE POOL

reak in one New Yorker's complacency

inside my head: "Are you nuts? You son lying unconscious on the ground in e is something very dramatic - even t a pool of blood. Then, in one of those r look back on and talk about as a your life," I did what nobody else on the he time or energy for. I stopped.

nd felt for a pulse. He had one, that was ies in sight, I ran inside the closest ambulance. Up a dank flight of stairs er room, which, I realized later, was a ss shelter. It was my first time inside d at what I saw, but that's another story. e the man at the front desk to call an I asked him for a blanket (it was a cold he muttered something like "sorry." uld have demanded the blanket, but I , satisfied at least that an ambulance ched over the man and hoped the fortunate enough to avoid the traffic

that incessantly locks New York in a choke hold.

To my surprise, the ambulance arrived relatively quickly. The paramedics examined the man for no more than a few seconds before they started shaking him, and rather roughly at that.

"Hey! Hey! Wake up? Can you hear me?" one of them yelled. This didn't seem like standard medical practice to me, so I inquired. It seems the man was in a drunken stupor and had fallen and slammed his head against the sidewalk, putting a sizeable gash in his head, but nothing more serious. They were putting him in the ambulance as I walked away.

Looking back I find it hard to criticize anyone who was involved. I do not fault those who stepped right over this man, for they are but creatures of their environment. New York City has an insidious way of beating you down and obliterating your sense of compassion like no other place on this planet. You don't even know it's happening really. You just get more and more used to hearing about the seemingly endless flow of muggings, murders, robberies, shootings, stabbings, rapes, homicides...

And you get used to the homeless. So much so, in fact, that they become something other than people in your mind. Non-people. They're the non-people you have to mumble "sorry" to when they ask you for a handout, the non-people you have to smell when they walk on your crowded subway car, and the non-people you have to step over when they're stretched across the sidewalk in a pool of blood.

And I don't criticize myself or even the man whom I stopped to help that day. But what I can do is be sensitive to those whose circumstances are less favourable than my own. It may be common sense, but it was a damn revelation when this native New Yorker realized that homeless people are not things, but living breathing people who, for one reason or another, have found themselves in situations from which they would like to extricate themselves. Sensitivity and compassion, it's the least we can offer. ♦

Michael Vlessides is now a former New Yorker, and makes his living teaching in northern Canada.

OLD / Boastful panhandlers drift off on the stairs

h poet, wrote something about when the ing falls apart and those who have much nt and others who should be doing the d, fatuous but nevertheless heard. That's m, The Second Coming, written in century, and still relevant as a new

w, likes Yeats, too. He takes him to word for word. You may have seen Hank own street corner offering a snippet of t Frost for two bits, an orator in holey t and wearing just a touch of outer space holds out his cap to catch the gratuities h Lit he earned back in '83.

netimes," he admits with a smile that's imes his face got in the way of a fist. unappreciative of the smell of poetry

eeep my distance or else wear a goalie id as we walked to China Town where e some vintage Lao-tzu outside the

more receptive on full bellies. Yet, the Christian Andersen ate candle-wax while stories in a Scandinavian hotel. Today

there are more extremes, f'rinstance, some good days I make ten bucks and there are Stephen Kings who get thousands in advance for pulp that hasn't even seen the light of day. I envy that kind of corporate trust, but I guess it's up to me to spread the word if technology is robbing most folks of reading time. My mission," says Hank and winks, beaming with the best of intentions.

Equipped with long-term memory, double-barrelled long-windedness and a prompter's sheet in his back pocket, Hank believed himself lucky to make a living catch-as-cat-can with the world as his podium.

"I don't believe I make a drastic change in people's lives but I do believe in the power of words when they make me feel I'm telling people truth. Great words should never be secret, censored, or just available in libraries. Before Gutenberg's press, words were meant to be read aloud. Now there are a glut of books and there is that intense competition with radio and television. Why? People first learn their mother tongue through their ears. It's naturally soothing, I suppose."

"So," I said, "since you believe you're telling people true and valuable messages, does that make you a sort of modern soothsayer of the streets?"

The business crowd were filing out of the restaurant doors to get back to their offices and computers, sated by the noon hour smorg and possibly willing to hear my friend's poems,

stories and monologues over the Centre Street traffic. Because there were those who did not brush by or a look askance and instead dropped some money into Hank's doffed Blue Jay's cap. Better yet, some even gave him an encouraging smile.

"Soothsayer? Alright, then, Beware the Ides of March," quipped Hank. Hank stood taller than any Roman emperor in the busy crowd and, without a claim to fame, he was conquering the odds against survival. Lao-tzu was having a good turn out. ♦



AYER / Equipped with long-term memory, ledness and a prompter's sheet

sistent, I went for coffee. After that, they tease. One would hold out his closed fist, what's in my hand for a paper." I always would show me a penny or two.

e in for ten minutes and warm up?" They e up.

everyone else is asleep." I ushered them ey looked pretty bad. I could see why they panhandlers. They had probably slept for , and not seen shampoo for awhile either. andwiches and tea, then sat down and

joined them while they ate.

One of the panhandlers looked about to fall asleep at the table. He was sort of hunched over, wolfing down the sandwich. He held up five fingers "That's five," he mumbled.

"Five?" I asked.

His buddy explained. "That's five free meals today, including this one. We eat at restaurants. They give us hamburgers and whole meals. We have to keep changing restaurants, though."

The tired panhandler struggled to his feet. "I'm going to rest on the stairs for ten minutes," he said, then sprawled

along the steps leading to the side door.

"I make a hundred dollars a day," the talkative panhandler was becoming boastful. "It all goes on booze and cigarettes." He went on to explain that they usually crashed at the flop house, but that tonight they had missed the bus downtown.

I did a quick mental calculation, and figured out that he made a lot more than my entire family per month. He should have been the one helping me out.

After a few minutes he joined his buddy on the stairs and they rested there for the night. ♦

P
H
O
T
O
S
•
L
I
N
D
A
D
U
M
O
N
T

7

•
SPARE
CHANGE
MAY
1995
•

Support Spare Change advertisers

These businesses are supporting **Spare Change** by placing their notices in this newspaper.

Philp & Company

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS
An Association of Independent Law Practices

JIM D. BRAIDEN
B.A., LL.B.

10374 - 172 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA, T5S 1G9
TELEPHONE (403) 484-8708 FAX (403) 484-8894 RES (403) 432-0551

Prism Auto Body Ltd.

Dedicated To Excellence

Frame & Collision Specialists
Domestic & Imported Repairs

SERGE ROUSSEAU
M.I.H.

17416 - 105 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1G4

Phone 489-0322
Fax 486-2709

RAMCOR

DIRECTIONAL DRILLING

Extended Range Directional Boring Systems

10537 - 170th Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5P 4W2

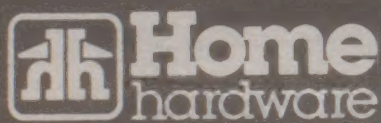
Ph: (403) 444-2717
Fax: (403) 444-2716
Cell: (403) 497-8357
Mobile: 551-1899

BERT BAXTER TRANSPORT

Working for our Community

9540 - 60 Avenue
Edmonton, AB

435-0541



Boulevard Home Hardware
9562-111 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone (403) 477-1038

ESSO

Checkpoint
Premium Auto Service Centre

Groat Road Service (1976) Ltd.

10704 Groat Road
Edmonton, Alberta
T5M 3J8

"We want you to come back"

Bob Hamblin
Manager

Bus: 454-1144

Langager Insurance Brokerage Inc.

KAYE A. LANGAGER, B.A., C.L.U.

SUITE 810, 10055 - 106 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5J 2Y2
TELEPHONE: (403) 421-4477
FAX: (403) 420-1013

FOOD • for Thought

Spare Change's first & last article about the O.J. Simpson trial

BY MARJORIE BENCZ

With almost every newspaper or TV broadcast, there is one story about government cutbacks and one story about the O.J. Simpson trial. Although most of us do not admit to following the O.J. Simpson trial, it is amazing how well we know the details.

On a recent trip to Toronto I came across a large TV carrying a live broadcast of the famous trial in the Edmonton International Airport. From the witness box, O.J.'s former house guest, Kato Kaelin, was describing in great detail conversations with police surrounding the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Pictures of many of the rooms in O.J.'s home appeared on the screen. At the airport a number of travellers were attentively watching Kaelin's testimony - almost oblivious to other airport activity. In fact one couple almost missed the last call for their Vancouver flight.

One of my friends has just returned from volunteering in Africa for a month. He witnessed all of the hardships and struggles for life experienced by many living in third world countries. He saw arms and ammunition disguised in powdered milk being unloaded from ships. He had his wallet lifted. Despite these events he was reassured by the resourcefulness and hope of the people. Guess what issue was on the front page of a newspaper published in Axum, Ethiopia? Yes, you guessed it....a quarter page picture of O.J. Simpson and a large article containing highlights of his trial.

Justice seems to have been short-circuited as O.J. publishes a book explaining his side of the story. I

thought that was the role of the defence.

Obviously, tens of millions of dollars are being spent to cover the trial. Media sources are continuously looking for a new angle, or a talkative witness to scoop the competition. Viewers and readers are spending countless hours digesting and discussing every aspect of the story.

Violence exists in our society. It is a real issue in the homes of many families and it still remains the accepted choice to resolve international disputes. The O.J. Simpson trial has glamorized these violent murders and even made the issue sexy.

All of this activity has led me to question the amount of activity and resources allocated to this trial and surrounding stories. If we used millions of dollars of media coverage to inform the community about other issues, such as environmental concerns, poverty, or family violence, we would be able to make some meaningful changes in our society. What if we spent a couple of extra minutes talking to our children or neighbours instead of reading the latest development in the saga of O.J.? We might find more contented families and more secure communities. We should be putting the same amount of time and energy

towards preventing violence in our society.

Of course, none of my comments are meant to take away from the harsh reality of the situation. Two people have been murdered and two children no longer have a mother. At one point, all of us would like to see justice and fairness as an outcome of the O.J. trial. With all of the media circus, we hope that this outcome is not lost. ♦

Marjorie Bencz is the executive director of the Edmonton Food Bank.



Homeless: More and more people forced to live on the street

This summer we will see a growing population of homeless people in our cities, warns Susanna Koczur, of Connection Housing in Calgary. Connection Housing is one of a number of street-level agencies that are sponsoring Homeless Awareness Week in Calgary May 8 to May 13.

"In March we helped 466 clients, compared to 265 last year," Koczur said. Connection Housing provides support and relief to low-income and homeless people in downtown Calgary. "We are even more concerned about the number of children we are seeing on the street. Alberta has the highest per capita population of children living in poverty."

Homeless Awareness Week will focus on educating Calgarians about the problems and concerns of families and people who find themselves living on the street. "The initial phase of spring, when the

**HOMELESS
Awareness Week
May 8 to May 13**

temperature rises and people can actually survive on the street, is when the homeless population becomes visible to the public," explains Koczur. That's why organizers decided to hold the week in early May. "There is no better time to transform public concern into

tolerance and compassion," she said.

During Homeless Awareness Week organizers are putting on a public forum, presentations in schools and to community groups, and a major display about the work of street-level agencies in the Calgary Municipal Building Atrium.

Ray Yauk, of Calgary's Downtown Street Ministries, is helping to organize the forum, slated for Wednesday May 10 at the WR Castell Public Library. "One of my strongest hopes for this special week is that we shatter some long-held myths and stereotypes about homeless people," says Yauk. ♦

MOVIE • Review

The silver screen takes on God — again!

BY DEANNA DOUGLAS

Priest, At Play in the Fields of the Lord, Jesus of Montreal, Leap of Faith, Black Robe. Films that ask us to examine either the life of Christ or the lives of His clergy. Do these movies represent their producers' search for religious truth, an attempt to lash out at God and those who believe in Him — or merely the exercise of freedom of speech?

Churches have reacted violently to the images portrayed in several movies over the past few years, including some in films mentioned above. I, for one, don't agree with many of the ideas about God I have met with in the movie theatre. Yet, I must admit that, just like in the real world, the problem lies not with the Creator, but with His Creation.

Priest, the latest religious film, has stirred up a lot of controversy. Some outspoken opponents have gone so far as to advocate a boycott of Disney, the parent company of **Priest's** distributor. As with the other films, the concern will probably fade when the title is taken down from theatre billboards.

Priest is a difficult film to watch, and it deals with many issues of the human experience that go beyond the confines of the church. The acting is strong, and the script moves along at a good pace, presenting the audience with the deep struggles faced by its characters.

The film follows a young idealistic Catholic priest through a series of experiences that leave him disillusioned, doubting, and confused. He is forced to come to terms with religious apathy and the incompatibility of church doctrine with the realities of the daily lives of the people of his community. A sexual abuse case tests both his vows and his face. Within the priesthood he faces sexuality, alcoholism, political agendas and the personal quest for power. Above all, he must struggle with homosexuality, doubts and

questions he encounters within himself.

The result is a film that is engaging and challenging on a number of levels. Watching members of the clergy face their sexual desires, bitterness and personal ambition on a daily basis serves to remind us of their humanity. And it is instructive to be reminded that man-made rules, rules imposed on Christians by the very church that claims to help them, cause a great deal of pain, and even sin.

Ultimately, however, I was disturbed by a number of the assumptions **Priest** makes — assumptions that, particularly in the context of the

Canadian experience of recent years, might serve only to fan the fires of public dissatisfaction. Whether or not they intended to paint such a dark picture, it is disturbing to note that every clergyman in this movie has surrendered to some unconquerable sin. That picture is in my experience false, and even prejudiced. As film reviewer Roger Ebert pointed out, chastity is not presented as a realistic goal; rather the

options seem to be surrender or an even less desirable personal alternative.

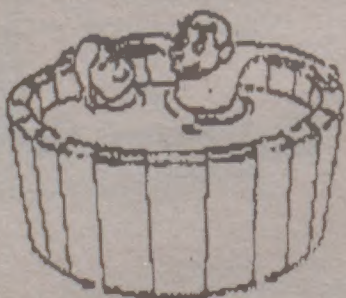
Perhaps at the heart of my concern, however, is **Priest's** depiction of the faith itself. Christianity is more than the mor code and a caring attempt to add liturgy and structure to people's lives. Christ's

message is, above all, spiritual in nature. If producers seek to present a wholistic perspective it is that side of the story that **Priest**, and many other films like it, lack.

I am not able to recommend **Priest**, except perhaps to those who have enough exposure to organized religion to know that there is a different kind of priest, and a deeper kind of faith. They are out there. I wonder if the account of their struggles will ever be told. ♦



FACTORY DIRECT HOTTUBS



Check out
FACTORY DIRECT'S SPAS
before you get into hot water.

FACTORY DIRECT HOTTUBS IS
PROUD TO ADVERTISE IN THIS ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRITED
NEWSPAPER. GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE VENDORS.

1502 MERIDIAN RD. NE
(corner of Barlow Tr. & 16 Ave. NE)

STORE HOURS:

Mon-Fri 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm • Sun 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tel: 273-4928 • Fax: 273-4746

► **Relax** & enjoy the comfort of using your own Spa.

► **For** socializing and/or therapy, there is nothing like having your own Spa.

- Calgary's only Spa Manufacturer
- Guaranteed fair pricing policy
- No commission sales staff • Free Spa water testing

► **We** invite all our customers to tour our state-of-the-art Factory and then try out our finished Spas.

Please don't forget to bring your bathing suits.



**TUNE-UPS
BRAKES**

**FRONT END REPAIRS
& ALIGNMENT
IMPORTS & DOMESTICS**

We're working hard
to be Your Mechanic

**16847 - 129 Avenue
447-1121**

YES!!! We Do Windows

We:	Rate Per Hour:
• do yard work and landscaping	\$7.00
• do all sorts of spring cleaning	\$6.00 - \$7.50
• can assist you in your home renovation projects	\$7.00 - \$14.00
• can help you move	\$8.00
• do a variety of tasks, just ask!!!	\$6.00 and up

For reliable skilled and non-skilled help,

CALL 424-4385

**Bissell Centre's
Casual Labour
Office**

(We are a non-profit agency, hence we do not accept
any referral fees from employers or workers.
The minimum duration of work (or pay) is 3 hours)

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

SPARE

CHANGE

MAY

1995

STREET • Guide

CALGARY

ADVOCATES

- **Calgary John Howard Society** 266-4566
- **Calgary Legal Guidance** 234-9266
- **Elizabeth Fry Society** 294-0737

AIDS

- **Aids Calgary** 288-0155
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Services (STD clinic)** 297-6562

DISTRESS LINE

- **Canadian Mental Health Suicide Services** 297-1744
- **Community Resource Team** 299-9699
- **Distress Centre/Drug Centre** 266-1605
- **Kids Help Phone** 1-800-668-6868
- **Parents Anonymous** 265-1117
- **Telecare Calgary** 266-0700

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Child Abuse Hot Line**
call the Operator ("0"), ask for Zenith 1234
- **Emergency Social Assistance**
(also for runaways) 270-5335

FAMILY SERVICES

- **Calgary Urban Projects Society**
Family Resource Centre 221-8799

FOOD

- **Interfaith Food Bank**
7475 Flint Road, SE 253-2055
- **Salvation Army Food Bank** 269-5951
Daily meals are served at a variety of locations.
Call for information 221-8780

HOUSING

- **Connection Housing Society of Calgary** 128 - 7th Ave. SE 232-6777

MEDICAL CARE

- **Calgary Urban Projects Society Health Centre** 221-8780

SHELTER (Short Term)

- **Alpha House (alcohol)** 234-7388
- **Drop-in Centre** 266-3600
- **Native Women's Shelter** 531-1972
- **Salvation Army Booth Centre** 262-6188
- **Women's Emergency Shelter** 232-8717
- **Servants Anonymous** 237-8477

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Alberta Safe House Society** 244-4737
- **Avenue 15** 244-4847
- **EXIT Community Outreach** 262-9953

EDMONTON

ADVOCATES

- **Bissell Centre**
10527 - 96 Street 423-2285
- **Boyle Street Co-op**
9720 - 102 Avenue 424-4106
- **CANDORA Society**
248 Abbottsfield Mall 474-5011

DISTRESS LINE

- **482-HELP** 482-4357

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Emergency Social Services** 427-3390
- **Sexual Assault Centre**
24-hour crisis line 423-4121
- **Women's Emergency Accommodation** 423-5302
- **Win House** 479-0058
- **Lurana Centre** 424-5875
- **Herb Jamieson Centre**
10014 - 105A Avenue 429-3470
- **A Safe Place** 464-7233
- **Emergency Relief Services** 428-4422

FOOD

- **Main Food Bank** 425-4190

DETOX CENTRES

- **AADAC Recovery Centre** 24 hrs.
10302 - 107 Street 427-4291

George Spady Centre

- 10015 - 105A Avenue 424-8335

HEALTH SERVICES

- **AIDS Network**
#201 - 11456 Jasper Avenue 488-5816
- **Boyle-McCauley Health Centre**
10628 - 96 Street 422-7333
- **Birth Control Centre**
#200 - 10036 Jasper Avenue 425-5850
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Services**
10105 - 109 Street 427-2834

LEGAL SERVICES

- **Student Legal Services** 492-2226
- **Legal Aid**
#300 - 10320 - 102 Ave. 427-7575

SENIORS

- **Operation Friendship**
9526 - 106 Avenue 429-2626

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Crossroads** 474-7421
- **Boyle Street Co-op Youth Outreach** 424-4106
- **Youth Emergency Shelter**
9310 - 82 Avenue 468-7070
- **Inner City Housing Project** 424-7866
or 479-1609

SASKATOON

ADVOCATES

- **Hands-on Street Ministries**
(Drop In Center)
117A - 20th Street West 653-4182
- **Saskatoon John Howard Society**
171 - 2nd Ave. South 244-8347
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
24 hour information 665-6727
- **Elizabeth Fry Society**
307 - 135 21st Street East 934-4606
- **Family Support Centre**
315 Avenue M. South 933-7751

DETOX CENTRES

- **Larson House**
130 Avenue O South 244-1385
- **Calder Centre** 933-5867
Outpatients Clinic 933-5867

EMERGENCY

- **Saskatoon Crisis Intervention**
1410 - 20 Street West 933-6200
- **Child Abuse & Neglect** 933-6200

FOOD

- **Saskatoon Food Bank**
202 Avenue C South 664-6565
- **Friendship Inn**
619 - 20 Street West 242-5122

Salvation Army

- 339 Avenue C South 244-6280

HEALTH SERVICES

- **Mental Health Clinic**
165 - 3rd Avenue South 933-6500
- **AIDS - Saskatoon**
414 - 220 3rd Avenue South 242-5005
- **Society for Depression**
304 - 220 3rd Avenue South 242-1833
- **STD Clinic**
(Sexually Transmitted Disease)
310 Idylwyld Drive 655-4642

SHELTER

- **Salvation Army**
339 Avenue C South 244-6280
- **Interval House**
712 Victoria Avenue 244-0185
- **Y.W.C.A.**
510 - 25 Street East 244-0944
- **Saskatoon Rainbow Centre** 683-1925
- **New Start Homes**
127 Avenue D. North 664-8848

YOUTH

- **Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre**
301 - 1st Avenue N. 931-6644

SIGNS • for the Times

BY ELYSE FREEMANSON

Aries

MARCH 21 • APRIL 20



A lot of you Arians this month are going to be feeling even more ambitious than usual in your work and career areas. Go after it with your usual passion, but keep in mind the toll to pay for all that output of energy. For instance, because of all this, you could be living on raw nerves at times, and must watch that temper of yours! Also, watch your budget; you may be very inclined to overspend this month. Also, avoid being reckless in any area in your life.

Taurus

APRIL 21 • MAY 21



Happy birthday all you Taureans out there! Your birthday starts a brand new cycle for the year ahead. If you didn't meet that special someone last month, there's still plenty of opportunities this month to do just that. Financially and health-wise, it is still very important right now to practice a certain amount of conservatism. In other words, you must try very hard not to take too many risks and gambles in those areas.

Gemini

MAY 22 • JUNE 21



Things in the romantic arena are looking better all the time for you Geminis. This month will be bringing in plenty of opportunities for passionate encounters of all kinds. If you are still experiencing difficulties of some sort or another in your job, career or financially, it might be a good idea to take a look around you and try something totally new. Again this month, like last month, remember to be as kind to your nerves as possible. Try meditating!

Cancer

JUNE 22 • JULY 23



Dear moon-children of the Zodiac, I do hope that you have all been taking extra good care of your health, especially your tummies. Always, but especially this month, you must watch how you handle your sometimes overwhelming emotions. You may be tempted to over-indulge in your diets, or to freak-out emotionally with your loved ones when things just don't "feel right". Do your best to relax! Financially, everything should be looking a bit better by month's end.

Leo

JULY 24 • AUGUST 23



Oh, you lucky Leos! Just like last month, most of you are still being beautifully supported by the planetary energies. Many of you have had, and will continue to have for awhile yet, so much energy that sometimes you're not even sure what to do with it! So the basic message this month is for most of you to learn to use energy appropriately in all areas of your life in order to enjoy everything, and avoid the old "crash and burn" scenario! Good luck!

Virgo

AUGUST 24 • SEPTEMBER 23



No doubt about it, Virgos, for many of you this last year and the last few months, your lives have been full of changes of all kinds, and many challenges and stresses, to say the least! There are even many changes and new developments coming your way, slowly but surely. Try hard to remain patient and ride things out for now. This is an excellent time to meditate, ponder and prepare for your future. Focus on turning your dreams into reality - they will happen!

Libra

SEPTEMBER 24 • OCTOBER 23



For many of you Librans this month, you may well be wondering just what to do about your closest personal relationships. Confusion reigns. Should you commit or should you consider letting one go and opening the door to a new romance? Decisions, decisions! Learn to trust your intuition; this also applies to your financial picture right now. Continue conservatism in this area. Also this month, get out there and socialize and have fun in order to help relieve the stresses a lot of you are experiencing.

Scorpio

OCTOBER 24 • NOVEMBER 22



This month Scorpios, there is a very strong emphasis on all your relationships; romantically, financially, you name it! For many of you, things have not been as great as you would like. Many frustrations and stresses must be dealt with before they worsen. Some of you may be considering making some kind of move, or maybe just a nice short vacation to relieve stress. In any case, there is a strong need to transform something in your lives. Do it!

Sagittarius

NOVEMBER 23 • DECEMBER 21



Ah, the merry, merry month of May! For many of you, there's a huge focus on finding that dashing fun and romantic playmate. Anyway, a lot of you are really feeling that spring-summer fever, not just romantically speaking, but also a proneness to excess in the areas of health and finance too. I know it's fun, but do try to exercise a teensy bit of restraint when it comes to goodies and overspending.

Capricorn

DECEMBER 22 • JANUARY 20



Well, Capricorns, last month most of you no doubt did all your taxes efficiently and on time - just taking care of business as usual, which most of you excel at! For some of you, things couldn't be better; for the rest of you, you may be looking at all sorts of wheeling and dealing on the side in order to firm up your finances. Romantically, things may not have been as rosy as you'd like. Patience, by month's end, many of you could be very involved in a lovely new romance. Good luck to you all!

Aquarius

JANUARY 21 • FEBRUARY 19



Dear fellow Aquarians, this should be one weird and sometimes fun month for many of you! Romantically, socially and financially, the planetary energies are rather unstable and at times simply silly and unpredictable. This may be the month you could end unsatisfactory job situations or find something else much more interesting. Or not. Who knows for sure? The only sure thing is that the month will be full of surprises.

Pisces

FEBRUARY 20 • MARCH 20



I know that many of you must be getting a little tired of hearing every month how very important it is stick with a very healthy diet and exercise regime. But I persist. If you don't have your health, it's pretty darn hard to handle just about anything else in your lives. So be kind to yourselves. One thing that helps get you out of wavy, weird moods that could be detrimental to your health is to be involved in anything creative. Also, just hanging out with friends, nature walks, etc. all great for decreasing tension. Peace.

Greenware • Paint and Supplies
Custom Firing • Classes • Molds

Rubyjean Ceramics Ltd.
Gare Distributor

13204 - 146 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4W8

Jeanette
Ph/Fax 447-2118

PUTTING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK

WESTERN UNION INSURANCE
ING CANADA

EDMONTON

CALGARY

Watch the notices on Pages 2 • 4 • 8 • 9 • 10

These businesses are supporting **Spare Change** by placing their notices in this newspaper. They, too, are helping make jobs for people on the street. They support a good cause and we urge you to support them.

10

SPARE
CHANGE

MAY
1995

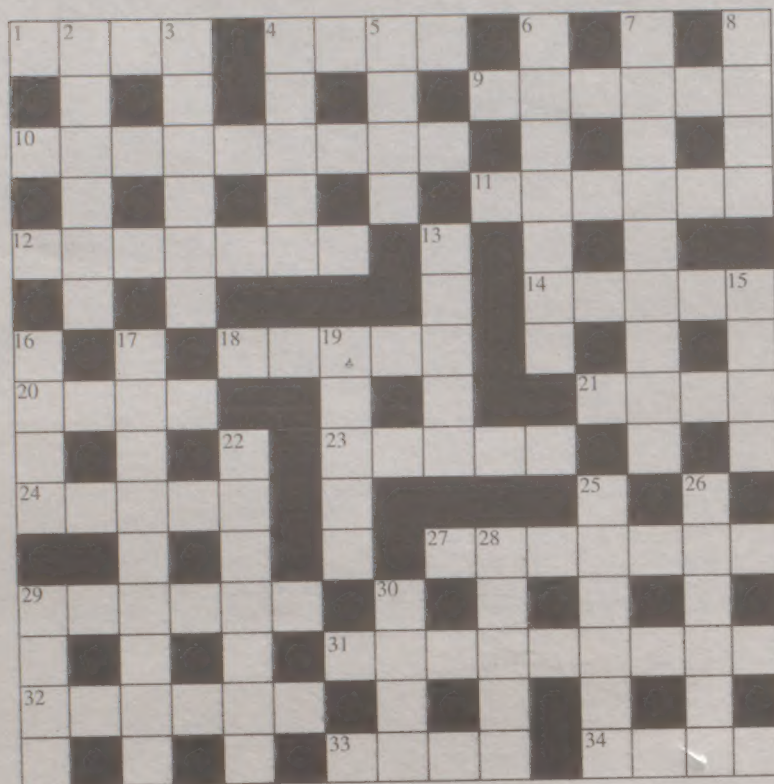
F
O
R
E
N
T
E
R
T
A
I
N
M
E
N
T
O
N
L
Y

CROSSWORD • Puzzle 16

A C R O S S

- 1 Large amount (4)
- 4 Intellectual guide (4)
- 9 Crunchy green veggie (6)
- 10 Faker, quack (9)
- 11 Phyllis of facelift fame (6)
- 12 Noisy harasser (7)
- 14 To happen (5)
- 18 Distinctive kind, ie humour (5)
- 20 To rant about trains? (4)
- 21 Egyptian goddess (4)
- 23 Neither ____ nor reason (5)
- 24 Sailor's shirt (5)
- 27 Playful song and dance (7)
- 29 Need to be quenched (6)
- 31 Dance position (9)
- 32 Grinding teeth (6)
- 33 Lawrence of Arabia's Sharif (4)
- 34 Slang:bed down (4)

BY SUSAN ANDREWS



D O W N

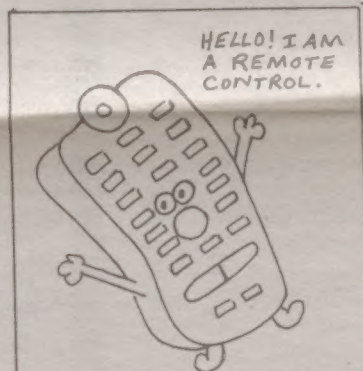
- 2 Popular name for yuppy puppies (6)
- 3 Bird that impales its prey (6)
- 4 Mark (5)
- 5 Mottled equine colouring (4)
- 6 Green semiprecious stone (7)
- 7 Pugnacious (9)
- 8 He found a big rock in Australia (4)
- 13 Truly, ____, deeply (5)
- 15 Thorny flower (4)
- 16 Fit (4)
- 17 Don Quixote's nemesis (9)
- 19 Main artery (5)
- 22 Monstrous carbuncle? (7)
- 25 Smooched (6)
- 26 Guerilla (6)
- 28 Brown pigment (5)
- 29 To pack down (4)
- 30 Stoker of vampire fame (4)

Answers to April Crossword #15

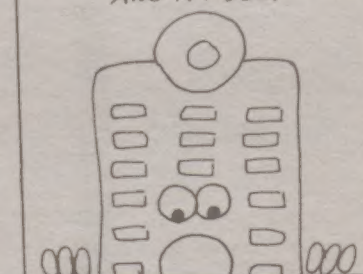
► Puzzle 16 answers will be published in the June issue of **Spare Change**.

H	E	M	A	T	I	T	E		O	S	M	I	U	M	
A		A		R					J	A		N		E	
W	I	T	H	E	R	S			A	R	C	A	D	I	N
K		C		A		E	S	S	C		I		N		
E	C	H	I	D	N	A			P	L	A	I	N	E	
D		E		L		R	A	E	T		E		R		
	A	S	S	E	T	S			R	E	E	D	S		
M			I		A				K		I		S		
						B	R	A					R	E	N
R		O		B		I	C	E		A		N		P	
M	A	T	A	D	O	R			M	O	N	S	T	E	R
I		C		O		E	T	A		N		I		E	
D	O	H	I	M	I	N			P	H	I	L	T	R	E
O		E		E		S				E		L		N	
N	O	D	I	N	O				B	L	I	S	T	E	R

"The Learning Comic"



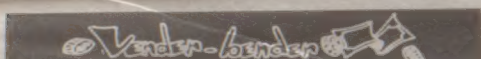
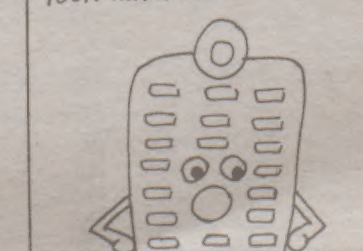
I HAVE 21 BUTTONS,
5 DIALS, 3 MEMORIES, 2 EYES
AND A NOSE.



I CAN RUN
6 MACHINES
simultaneous...
blah, blah, blah

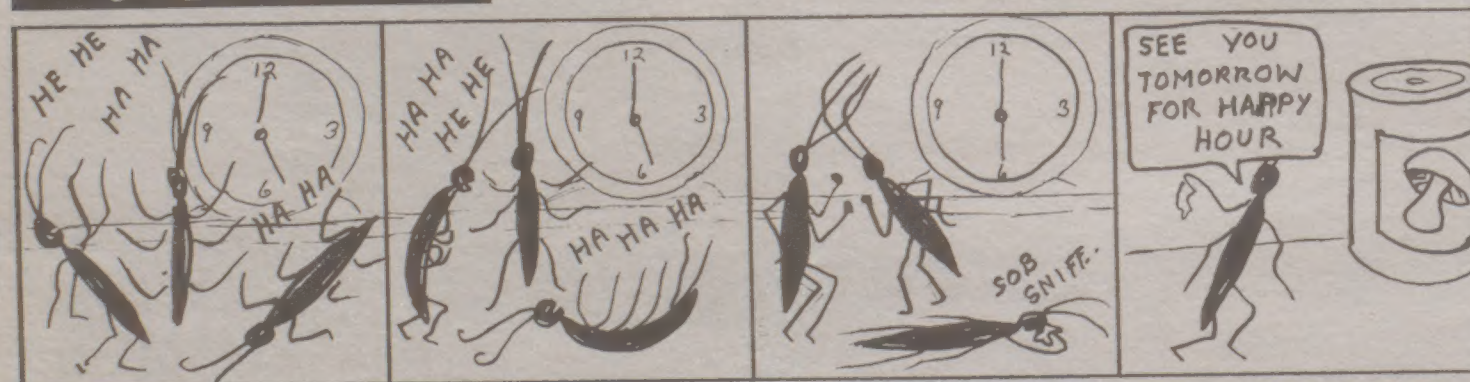


SO REMEMBER BOYS+GIRL
MAKE A LOT OF MONEY AND
PAY SOMEONE ELSE TO RUN
YOUR MACHINES.

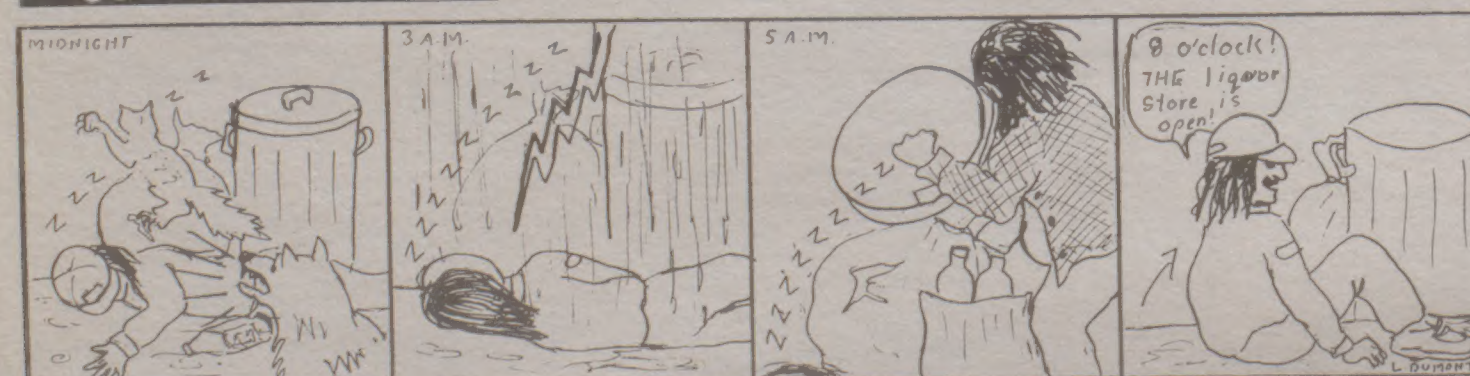


OVERKILL

ISA YOUNG



SOUPLINE BOB



THE WAY OF THE CROSS



12

SPARE
CHANGE
MAY
1995

Easter ceremony in the inner city

*"O Jerusalem,
Jerusalem,
killing the prophets
and stoning those
who are sent
to you!
How often would
I have gathered
your children
together,
as a hen gathers
her brood under
her wings,
and you
would not!
Behold, your house
is forsaken
and desolate."*

Following a humble wooden cross, nearly 1,000 people visited several spots that highlight some of the plight of poorer people on the 15th annual Easter walk, The Way of the Cross. Many different people shared in carrying the cross and many speakers shared prayers along the walk through the inner city in Edmonton on Good Friday.

The walk stopped at eight stations like the Remand Centre, the People in Need House, and the Mustard Seed Street Church. At each station the crowd listened to a reflection and joined in prayer. "The Way of the Cross is a prayer. In it we recall our Christian vocation to receive our neighbour in mercy, love and justice, and to pray and act together to address issues of concern," says Linda Winski, of the Social Justice Commission, one of the organizers.

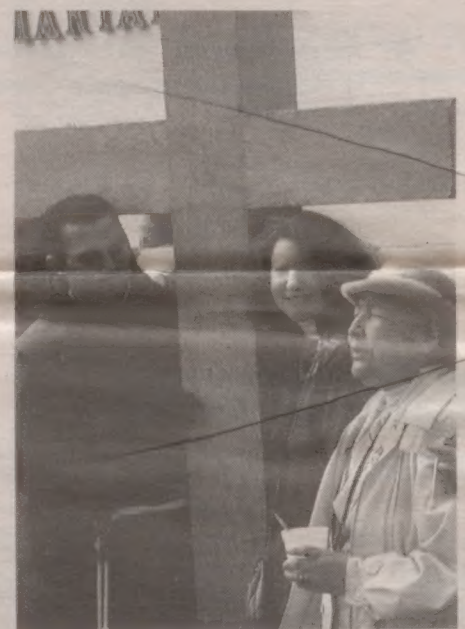
Rev. Suzanne Cowles, a Lutheran pastor with the Inner City Pastoral Ministry, took Jesus' words from the book of Matthew, when she spoke on 96th Street (see sidebar).

"The larger a city gets, the more lacking in compassion it seems," says Rev. Cowles. "Our Premier compares our province to a house under renovation," she said, "but what good will that renovation be if that house is forsaken and desolate?" Besides feeding people spiritu-

ally we need to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, doing what Jesus taught, says Rev. Cowles. "More people need to talk about who is hurting... what about the elderly, for example, who are too afraid to speak out because they could lose their housing, or the mentally disabled who have been put out in the community, too soon, with too little support?"

Betty Farrell shared her reflection about international justice at a stop in front of the Hong Kong Bank of Canada. Mrs. Farrell talked about the "Structural Adjustment Programs" imposed on poorer nations by the World Bank and compared them to the changes in Alberta. "People in the developing world are suffering extreme pressure in cuts in social services, health and education. It's here too. We must recognize that we have to stand up to it."

The people on the Way of the Cross heard the messages, shared in prayer and song and walked through the streets of the inner city. ♦



**Spare
Change**

Helping People Help Themselves

Have a hard time getting your copy of **Spare Change**?

Just \$30 a year will get you all 12 issues of the newspaper. **YES**, I want to subscribe. I am enclosing \$30 (cheque or money order) for my 12 issues.

Mail to: **Spare Change**
10527-96 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5H 2H6

(FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY)

VENDOR

Spare Change is a street newspaper, sold on the street for the benefit of the street vendors. Due to demand, however, we want to offer subscriptions by mail as well. Vendors will still benefit from subscriptions. Of your \$30 subscription, \$10.60 goes toward mailing costs, \$7.40 goes to printing and production, and of the remaining amount, \$6 goes directly to the vendors who sell you your subscription and the other \$6 goes to the vendors who mail you your copies.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____